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MINUTES OF THE CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMITTEE MEETING - 14 November 1958

1. The Committee discussed the problem of messages received in Washington which the recipient felt should have been sent in the CRITIC System. It was agreed that in such cases the receiving agency could declare the message to be a CRITIC message and have it distributed in Washington through the CRITIC system. It was further agreed, however, that when this was done the agency declaring the message CRITIC should also transmit an explanatory note identifying the original message and stating that this message was now being re-transmitted in the CRITIC System.

2. The Department of State representative indicated that he would report to the Chairman, by telephone, concerning the status of the book message to the field concerning Lebanon, Burma and Pakistan, which State undertook to transmit on behalf of the Committee at the previous meeting.

3. The Air Force representative circulated a draft of language to be included in the letter promulgating the SANAC system, which clearly stated that in case of conflict between CRITIC and SANAC reporting instructions, the CRITIC reporting requirements and reporting procedures would prevail.

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4. The Department of Defense representative briefed the Committee on activities in the Elint field which may eventually involve action by the Committee.

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5. [ ] introduced [ ] Chief of the newly established Critical Communications Division of NSA. [ ] Division is responsible for the functioning of the critical communications system and he will attend future meetings of the Committee.

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6. The Committee discussed the functioning of the CRITIC System and the Chairman expressed serious doubts that the system was effectively carrying all the critical intelligence that should be included in the system. As a result of this discussion, the following actions were agreed:

a. Each agency should see that appropriate intelligence personnel travelling in the field would brief field reporting

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personnel on the CRITIC system. Each agency would also attempt to have field inspectors inquire into the functioning of the CRITIC System during their inspection trips.

b. Each agency would submit a weekly report to the Chairman of the Committee listing messages received during the week, which it believed should have been submitted in the CRITIC System. Negative reports will be submitted as well. The first report will carry the cut-off date of 28 November 1958. The Committee will review these reports periodically thereafter.

7. The next meeting will be at the call of the Chairman, probably after the 28th of November.

W. A. TIDWELL  
Chairman, CCC